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## SPECIAL NURSING IN HOSPITALS

DEAR EDITOR: I have been a silent reader of your JOURNAL for many years. Recently I have been much interested in the letter on special nursing in hospitals, and would like to add my mite to the discussion.

I did private nursing for ten years and many times specialized in different eastern hospitals. I was always treated with every consideration and courtesy. Of course there were not always separate dressing rooms and sleeping rooms provided for us, but realizing the usual crowded condition of the ordinary hospital, I did not consider that a matter for criticism, and particularly on the part of the hospital management.

For the past three years I have been superintendent of a general hospital and think, I now see why specials are not always welcomed with open arms; some of my experiences having been unsatisfactory.

As a rule, when going through the corridors, I find the specials entertaining my pupil nurses, not only to the neglect of their own work but to the hindrance of the pupil as well. The specials do not appear to think that the rule of putting everything in its place in a clean and orderly condition applies, in the least, to them; glasses, spoons and appliances used in their work usually being left for the pupil nurses to attend to. Their telephone calls are sometimes so numerous as to almost necessitate an extra bell boy for their exclusive use, and last, but not least, one special nurse visited another patient's room and for some reason decided he needed an enema, which she proceeded to give, without any order whatever from the attending physician or permission from those in charge of the hospital.

There are two sides to all questions, and occasionally the specials may find that the fault lies with themselves. J.

*Mississippi.*

## "THE NURSING OF QUADRUPLETS"

DEAR EDITOR: Some time ago you noted the death, in March, 1913, of Virginia, the eldest of the quadruplets born in August, 1912, in Dorchester, Massachusetts. In May, 1913, Eleanor, the tiny one, died, probably of marasmus.

Barbara and Josephine are still thriving.

*Massachusetts.*

E. O. BOSWALL.

## HOW WE FED OUR TRIPLETS

DEAR EDITOR: The readers of the JOURNAL may be interested to learn of our method of feeding triplets.

On September 19, 1913, Mary Nicosia, Italian, 28 years of age, gave birth to boy triplets. These babies were born on our tenement service, and about twenty-four hours elapsed before we succeeded in getting mother and babies into the hospital. Before they were six hours old they were taken to the church to be christened.

Mother and babies were discharged on their thirty-fourth day in good condition. The mother being a very healthy woman was able to nurse the babies according to the schedule as worked out by our resident physician and head nurse, as follows:

*Schedule for times for feedings of triplets*

	5 a.m.	7.30 a.m.	10 a.m.	12.30 p.m.	3. 30 pm.	6.30 p.m.	9 p.m.	11.30 p.m.
No. 1	R.B.	6-20	L.B.	R.B.	6-20	L.B.	R.B.	6-20
No. 2	L.B.	R.B.	6-20	L.B.	R.B.	6-20	L.B.	R.B.
No. 3	6-20	L.B.	R.B.	6-20	L.B.	R.B.	6-20	L.B.

Each baby nursed twenty minutes at each feeding. "6-20," 3iss each bottle feeding.

NOTE—R.B., right breast; L.B. left breast; "6-20," whole milk formula.

Upon admission to the hospital their weights were 4 lb. 13½ oz.; 4 lb. 14½ oz.; and 4 lb. 11 oz., respectively. Upon discharge, their thirty-fourth day, these weights were 6 lb. 1½ oz.; 5 lb. 10 oz.; and 5 lb. 12 oz., respectively. You will note that number two, who weighed the most upon admission, weighed the least upon discharge, while numbers one and three made good gains.

This schedule was varied according to increase or failure in weights as, for instance, supposing number one, or two, who was getting the 6-20 three times in the twenty-four hours, lost weight; he would be changed to place of number two, who, on that particular day was getting the 6-20 but twice in the twenty-four hours.

You will also note that each baby had one twenty-four hours with six breast and two bottle feedings between two periods of twenty-four hours of five breast and three bottle feedings.

It may be of possible interest to learn that this was our second set of triplets within two months. The others were all girls, and one, number two, lived only about ten days.

They were also born on our Outdoor Service, and the mother could not be prevailed upon to come to the hospital.

NANCY E. CADMUS, R.N., Superintendent.

*Manhattan Maternity and Dispensary, New York.*

## GENERALIZING

DEAR EDITOR: The quotation from *The British Journal of Nursing*, on page 39 of the October JOURNAL, was keenly interesting to me, for a double reason, first, because I quite agree with the writer that nurses should be students of subjects pertaining to nursing, and I furthermore maintain, that nurses should not merely specialize but generalize. An exceedingly profitable course of instruction, which I have just finished, at no great expense, was one planned by the Pennsylvania State Sabbath School Association. At first thought, this may appear to have no bearing upon any knowledge a nurse needs in her work, but by so thinking, we err. Let us remember, that Christ, the Divine Healer, and Luke, the beloved Physician, were forerunners in all that is great in the healing art, today.

The first book I studied was *Preparation for Teaching*. After five examinations, conducted by the superintendant of the local Sunday School, who received the question papers from state headquarters, I was granted the state diploma. Fitting exercises for the presentation of these diplomas, to my classmates and myself were held in the village church. But the state diploma was by no means complete; there were spaces for six seals, and I had to go to work. The adage tells us, that "faint heart never won fair lady," and, to my way of thinking faint